

II. REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's determination that claims 30 and 31 contain allowable subject matter (Office Action, mailed April 13, 2010, at 13, lines 1-4).

By the present paper, claims 27, 30 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 12 and 25 have been amended, and new claim 32 has been added. More specifically, independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate subject matter from claim 30. In fact, claim 12 now has the same scope as previous claim 30. Independent claim 25 has been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter from previous claim 31.

New independent claim 32 incorporates subject matter from previous claims 25, 27 and 31.

In fact, new claim 32 corresponds to previous claim 31 rewritten in independent form.

Therefore, claim 32 has the same scope as previous claim 31.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the above-captioned application.

A. Applicants' Arguments

Independent claims 12 and 32 correspond to previous claims 30 and 31, respectively, and are, therefore, allowable for the reasons of record. Independent claim 25 incorporates allowable subject matter from previous claim 31 and is also, therefore, allowable for the reasons of record. The remaining claims 13, 14, 16, 18-23, 28 and 29 depend either directly or indirectly upon allowable base claims 12 or 25, and are, therefore, likewise allowable for the reasons of record.

III. CONCLUSION

Independent claims 12, 25 and 32 each incorporate subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner over the prior art. The remaining claims 13, 14, 16, 18-23, 28 and 29

depend either directly or indirectly upon allowable base claims 12 or 25, and are, therefore, likewise allowable for the reasons of record.

For all of the above reasons, claims 12-14, 16, 18-23, 25, 28, 29 and 32 are in condition for allowance, and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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